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The second book¹ was prepared at the request of Edward N. Hurley of the United States Shipping Board for the purpose of awakening "a more general interest in American enterprise upon the seas and to instil in the hearts of American boys and girls a just pride in the commercial achievements of our country" (p. 3). The content of the book, while written in story form, covers the field of shipping in a broad way, and stimulates a breadth of interest in this subject which is generally lacking in school children. The many illustrations would do credit to any textbook in geography, and as a supplementary geographical reader the book should serve a useful purpose.

New Primer.—Owing to the wide use of the Beacon series of readers the addition of a new primer² will be of interest to many elementary-school teachers and supervisors. The large amount of research which has been carried on in the field of reading in recent years has resulted in the formulation of a number of principles relating to the content of readers and the method of presentation of material. Mr. Fassett gives evidence of being familiar with these principles, and has constructed a primer which is free from many of the faults of earlier attempts.

The instruction in phonics, which is essential in teaching beginning reading, is not confused with the regular material, but is printed in a separate section in the back of the book. These lessons are to be used in combination with the simple reading exercises in the first of the book in such a way that new sight words are introduced very gradually and sufficient drill is provided that these words are thoroughly learned. This combination of phonic and reading exercises carried on side by side results in a method of treatment which is decidedly superior to the common stilted and confused presentation of phonics.

The material of the book is well selected with a view to the interests of children. In the earlier part of the book the dialogue is frequently used, while the latter part is characterized by the simple folk tales which are familiar to all children. The illustrations are exceptionally good, both in regard to the pictures themselves and in their relation to reading matter. In every case they take a full horizontal section of the page and do not break into the lines of print.

The primer is a carefully executed piece of work and deserves the wide use that it will doubtless receive.

Historical geography.—The correlation of geography with history is so important that superior methods of accomplishing this end will be welcomed. An attempt to provide such a method appears in a recent book³ by Professor

¹ JAMES BALDWIN and W. W. LIVENGOD, *Sailing the Seas*. New York: American Book Co., 1920. Pp. 304. \$1.00.

² JAMES H. FASSETT, *The New Beacon Primer*. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1921. Pp. viii+152. \$0.72.

³ DIXON RYAN FOX, *Harper's Atlas of American History*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1920. Pp. vi+181.

Fox in which he combines a connected historical sketch with an extensive series of maps in such a way that the development of the history of a nation is made clear.

The book contains a series of one hundred and twenty-eight maps illustrating the development of American history. Following the series of maps there are twenty-seven map studies made up of detailed directions for work upon outline maps, together with a brief historical treatment of the topic covered. For each of the map studies references are given to history texts which serve further to illustrate the subject of the study.

The value of the book lies in the convenient form in which the material is presented. The use of such a book would do much to clarify the ideas of children regarding the space relationships of historical events.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL METHOD, HISTORY, THEORY, AND PRACTICE

BURGESS, MAY AYRES. *The Measurement of Silent Reading*. New York:

Russell Sage Foundation, 1921. Pp. 163. \$1.00.

DAVIS, E. E. *The Twentieth-Century Rural School*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1920. Pp. 242.

MCGREGOR, A. LAURA. *Supervised Study in English*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1921. Pp. xii+220.

MICKEL, ADELAIDE. *Stenciling*. Peoria, Illinois: Manual Arts Press, 1920. Pp. 62. \$0.85.

TURNER, EDWIN ARTHUR. *The Essentials of Good Teaching*. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1920. Pp. xiii+271.

BOOKS PRIMARILY FOR ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PUPILS

AMES, EDGAR W., and ELDRED, ARVIE. *Community Civics*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1921. Pp. xiv+387.

LENNES, N. J., and PHILLIPS, PAUL C. *The Story of Columbus*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1921. Pp. viii+168.

MATTHEWS, MARY LOCKWOOD. *Elementary Home Economics*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1921. Pp. xx+343. \$1.40.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF EDUCATION AND SIMILAR MATERIAL IN PAMPHLET FORM

Recent issues of the Bureau of Education:

Bulletin No. 16, 1920—*A Survey of Education in Hawaii*.

Bulletin No. 36, 1920—*Preliminary Survey of the Schools of the District of Columbia*.